



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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Grants Mgt. GE

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 13, 2017

DATE: May 18, 2017
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Amber Howell Director, Department of Social Services
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THROUGH: Melanie Lever, C.P.M., Purchasing & Contracts Manager,
Comptroller's Office
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SUBJECT: Approve the sole source exemption to purchase the Prime Software system offered by Spirit Solutions, Inc. in the amount of [\$141,000] to support the Foster Care system in Social Services by matching children in care with families that best match the child's needs. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The department is requesting sole source approval to purchase the Prime Software system offered by Spirit Solutions, Inc. to support the Foster Care system in Social Services by matching children in care with families that best match the child's needs. Purchasing has approved the sole source request and the quote offering government pricing for the software system.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On May 9, 2017 the Board authorized the creation 1.0 FTE Program Coordinator, pending Job Evaluation Committee (JEC) approval, to provide daily oversight of program and operations of the Family Engagement Center (Visitation Center), funded 100% by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant accepted by the Board on July 26, 2016. Direct the Human Resources Department to make the necessary staffing adjustments and initiate the recruitment process.

On December 13, 2016 the Board accepted two Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant awards from the State of Nevada Division of Child and Family Services for the Crisis Stabilization Response Safety and Services Intervention Team in the amount [\$200,658;

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\$50,165 County match] for the period retroactive to July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017; for the Placement Services and Support Team in the amount of [\$120,923; \$30,231 County match] for the period retroactive to July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017; authorize the creation of 2.0 FTE Social Worker III, 1.0 FTE Human Services Support Specialist II, 1.0 FTE Mental Health Counselor, and 1.0 FTE Office Support Specialist funded 100% by the VOCA, direct the Human Resources Department to make the necessary staffing adjustments and initiate the recruitment process, authorize the Department to execute the Sub-Grant Award and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments

On July 26, 2016 the Board accepted a Sub-grant Award from the State of Nevada Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of \$1,765,819 (\$441,445 in-kind match required) for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program retroactively to July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017; authorize the creation of 1.0 FTE Victims Advocate, 1.0 FTE Human Services Program Supervisor, 1.0 FTE Program Assistant, and 1.0 FTE CPS Intake Screener funded 100% by the VOCA award in the approximate annual amount of \$440,686, direct the Human Resources Department to make the necessary staffing adjustments and initiate the recruitment process, authorize the Department to execute the Sub-Grant Award and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Request for Proposal for various services will be issued to select subcontractors in accordance with Federal and Washoe County purchasing guidelines.

On July 28, 2015 the Board accepted a VOCA grant in the amount of \$115,000 (\$28,750 County match required) effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 and authorized an agreement with the Committee to Aid Abused Women to perform services outlined in the VOCA grant in the amount of \$68,750 annually.

On June 26, 2012, the Board accepted a VOCA grant in the amount of \$272,400 (\$68,100 County match required) effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015 and authorized an agreement with the Committee to Aid Abused Women to perform services outlined in the VOCA grant in the amount of \$68,750 annually.

The Board has routinely accepted VOCA funds since October, 2005.

BACKGROUND

A Federal Child and Family Services Review in 2004 found a lack of understanding of the impact of violence on children and families. In response to this critical area of need, the Department received permission from Finance in 2005 to apply for VOCA grant funds to provide direct services to children, adolescents, and their non-offending parents and siblings.

The primary purpose of VOCA is to support the provision of services to victims of crime throughout the nation. According to the VOCA Program Guidelines, services are defined as those efforts that (1) respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; (2) assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after victimization; (3) help victims understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and (4) provide victims of

crime with a measure of safety and security. For the purpose of the VOCA crime victim assistance grant program, a crime victim is a person who has suffered physical, sexual, financial, or emotional harm as a result of a crime.

In prior years the Department contracted with the Committee to Aid Abused Women (CAAW) to provide a full-time domestic violence advocate to work with the Department in providing services to victims of child abuse and/or domestic violence. Department staff have worked with the domestic violence advocate to develop and implement a joint response service model for child abuse and domestic violence cases to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children and their non-offending parents. Previous grant awards also supported assistance to victims with crisis intervention services, temporary housing, utilities, transportation, childcare and emergency food and personal items.

Due to the increase of funding available, the current grant award will provide services and assistance to any type of crime victim and is not limited to those victims of domestic violence as previous awards have been. Primary goals include:

- Provide a safety and security measure for victimized children who were removed from their homes and placed into the custody of WCDSS due to abuse and/or neglect. Having a safe, neutral, nurturing place for victimized children who are placed outside of the parental home with biological parents, extended family members, and foster parents is essential to maintaining stability in the child victims lives.
- Improve permanency for child victims in foster care by decreasing the amount of time it takes for child victims in foster care to achieve permanency and find permanent caregivers or connections for child victims where reunification is not possible, by providing Safety Intervention Services.
- Provide safety, security and stability for children, adult males and females and elders, including underserved populations who are victims of: child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, elder abuse, financial crimes, robbery, assault, adult victims of molestation, economic exploitation, fraud, federal crimes, survivors of homicide, hate and bias crimes and gang violence. The primary focus will be on the Federal Priority Victim Populations.
- Provide professional personalized assistance to victims of crime.
- Respond to the immediate emotional and physical needs and safety of victims.

Social Services will implement the Prime foster care matching system in order to comply with the Nevada Blue Ribbon for Kids Commission (BRK) committee #7 recommendations. Prime is an essential component of the Quality Parenting Initiative which was piloted and implemented by Social Services over the past 5 years. Prime offers a HIPPA compliant framework that adheres to federal privacy standards, for case management, tracking, referral portals, real-time data sharing, assessments, surveys, calendaring, reporting, and data dashboard. In addition, communication portals for the Department, care givers, agencies, and youth that include the ability to coordinate services, provide surveys and assessments, manage appointments, and deliver automated reminders and alerts all built to emulate a Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) friendly environment.

The Prime Foster Care Matching software is a key component to achieving the goals of the VOCA grant. Prime is proprietary software system that was developed to manage foster care matching to facilitate successful placements using proprietary algorithms. The software is compatible and fully integrates with Unity, the data system required by the State of Nevada to be used to manage the County's child welfare services. Unique features of Prime include assessment, case management tracking, referrals, real time data sharing, communication, scheduling and reporting tools aligned with Social Services current business practices that reports directly into Unity. Prime enables sibling cases to be linked which supports sibling placement into a single foster home. Unlike other foster care matching systems Prime allows for the use of mobile technology by staff, foster families and foster children. Prime also allows for real time reporting and matching which further enhances placement success.

FISCAL IMPACT

The software purchase will be funded though the VOCA grant that was accepted by the Board on July 26, 2016. Budget authority for the software exists in IO 11318. No match is required for this purchase.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department is requesting the Board approve the sole source exemption to purchase the Prime Software system offered by Spirit Solutions, Inc. in the amount of [\$141,000] to support the Foster Care system in Social Services by matching children in care with families that best match the child's needs.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve the sole source exemption to purchase the Prime Software system offered by Spirit Solutions, Inc. in the amount of [\$141,000] to support the Foster Care system in Social Services by matching children in care with families that best match the child's needs."